

## **NEW RECREATION FEE PROPOSAL – OLD BARK ROAD STAGING AREA**

### **Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area – Siuslaw National Forest**

#### Executive Summary

The Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area is a 26,000 acre area within the Siuslaw National Forest. It was designated by Act of Congress in 1972. It occupies a thin strip of coastal sand dunes west of Highway 101 for approximately 40 miles, from Coos Bay to Florence. Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) have been used for recreation by the public on the dune lands since before their designation as an NRA. Currently about 12,000 acres of the NRA is open to motorized use in three large OHV riding areas. The area is nationally known as a premier OHV riding area. The balance of the NRA is comprised of developed sites (e.g. campgrounds, roads, trailheads, staging areas, etc.) and undeveloped areas dedicated to non-motorized recreation activities (e.g. hiking, wildlife viewing, photography, etc.) and wildlife habitat. Approximately 1.1 million people per year visit the NRA.

Old Bark Road OHV Staging Area is a new facility along the Horsfall Road corridor in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (NRA). The project is located about 5 miles north of Coos Bay and North Bend, Oregon. The facility is being constructed using a combination of funding from partners, recreation fee funds (because it is replacing Horsfall Staging - a current recreation fee site) and insurance settlement funds targeted at restoring recreation opportunities lost during the New Carissa incident. It was proposed and analyzed as part of the 2005 Environmental Analysis for designated dispersed site sand camping and was part of the decision to institute designated dispersed site sand camping in this portion of the NRA.

The entire facility will cost approximately \$625,000 to construct. Of that total, \$350,000 comes from partners - \$200,000 from the Oregon State Parks All Terrain Vehicle Accounts Allocation Committee and \$150,000 from the Oregon State Parks Recreation Trails Program. The \$350,000 in grants was leveraged with a \$120,000 recreation fee match. Partnership funds were applied for and secured with the understanding that user fees would be charged and used to operate and care for the facilities over time. The site will provide paved parking and staging for 42 street-legal vehicles or vehicle/trailer combinations and will include all of the amenities necessary to qualify as a Standard Amenity Fee site.

Notice of the Forest's intent to charge a \$5.00 standard amenity fee for use of this site appeared in the Federal Register on January 12, 2007. During the environmental analysis process, there were no public comments regarding the intent to charge fees at this facility. Press releases in local media regarding the new facility and the fact that fees would be charged elicited no public comments.

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